

Oh, the Places

Heidi Welch, 2013 NH Teacher of the Year and
National Teacher of the Year Finalist

Slide 1 (Noah/Suitcase)

On the places I've Gone

I will try to reflect

The journey was long

And I am not finished yet.

Slide 2

It started in October

A day somewhat of a shock

To represent NH Teachers

I would really have to rock

Slide 3

I had brains in my head

and a closet FULL of shoes

I would surely use each pair

Maybe get some new ones too

Slide 4

For my shoes were feeling lonely

They needed to do some walking

To mingle with great teachers

And do a lot of talking

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Slide 5

In Scottsdale we all met

The amazing 54

To share our stories, create some bonds

And learn what was in store

Slide 6

We laughed and shared our backgrounds

We grew to know our peers

We learned to use our Smartboards,

We quelled a lot of fears

Slide 7

Next up, a trip to Washington

Where the weather was so cold

Historic sights and interviews

And another pair of soles.

Slide 8 – SHOES

Slide 9

DC was a whirlwind week

With so many things to do

A roundtable with Jill Biden

Cool Smithsonian time, too

Slide 10

We found a fixer upper home in case we wanted to stay
Touching the table in the Roosevelt room was a memory of the day
We made a lot of memories, we rolled around in style
I couldn't remember what the oval office looked like though
Even if I tried.

Slide 11

Rope swing

Slide 12

Some shoes of course were needed
For the gala ball
Which my husband selected for me
The greatest husband of them all!

Slide 13

In June we looked at policy
And issues in education
The teachers once again assembled
From all across the nation

Slide 14

I also found some shoes

As Macy's had a sale

I now have lots of great "memories"

As reminders of this tale

Slide 15 – SPACE CAMP

The week was here! The week was here!

The one I'd waited for for years!

For I was going to Space Camp you see

The coolest Camp in HISTORY!

Slide 16

I got to be shuttle commander,

A very cool job, you see

Though I almost lost my cookies

As rides and I do not agree

Slide 17

We built our rockets to the sky

We solved some lunar issues

We knew our year was drawing nigh

And required a lot of tissues

Slide 18

I conquered fears, jumped off the edge

Got the Right Stuff medal (so cool!)

I knew that I would bring to my students

A lot more learning tools

Slide 19

We shuffled into Princeton

For our last ever meet

We knew that these last few days

Were sure to be a treat

Slide 20

We processed, wrote, reflected and shared

We stretched moments to the last

None of us could come to terms

With how quickly the year had passed.

Slide 21

We hugged it out -- We had some fun

We hung with George's hair

We listened intently, hugged goodbye

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Slide 22 and 23 –

And went home light as air

Slide 24

This part of my journey is ending,

My footsteps are suddenly stilled

My bags are finally completely unpacked

My substitute teachers are thrilled

Slide 25

I walked some miles in shoes and life

So much was gained this year

I may have even gained a few more pounds (they feed you A LOT!)

But shed so many fears

Slide 26

For I see the road in front of me

But know the path behind

Slide 27

I have the courage to move forward

And push all fear aside

Slide 28

Another thing

That I have gained

Was time for intense reflection

(And possibly the knowledge that I need a shoe buying intervention!)

Slide 29

I learned that we as teachers

Are part of a bright and valued profession

For we are multifaceted and love our jobs

With somewhat “slight” obsession

Slide 30

We share such similarities

In Quality and Brightness

The many sides of us shining through

In moments that seem darkest

Slide 31

So Carrie, Jane, and Janice – (I couldn't find a picture of Janice!)

And of course Miss Lori-Lyn

I have a gift for the four of you

To remind you of what is within

For you are from now on Diamonds

For your students Shining brightly

So enjoy this little reminder

And never take your honor lightly

Slide 32

And of course for my dear Joey –Son

As you go on your way

Create your memories and relish the time

And always seize the day

Make sure that you have good comfy shoes

Though they will NEVER be as awesome as mine

We know you will represent our dear state well

For you have a thirst for knowledge and an open mind

I have a few small gifts for you to send you on your way

Some fun, some practical, some just silly to get you through the days

A business card holder is just one thing that you will surely need

a phone holder for skyping your beautiful (almost!) wife

And some playing cards of the "B"'s

Some on the go chocolate , when there's no time to eat (trust me, I know)

And lastly I leave you the greatest of treats.

A special little button for those moments when you are so....

Well, let's just say that there may be times

when you need to just say "NO"

Slide 33

I'll tell you that your 53

Will change your life forever

For though our year may be over

Our support system will not sever

Slide 34

So Now Back to My Classroom

Slide 35

Where everything began

Slide 36

To my amazing family

who always had my hand

They shared this amazing journey –

(skype was a handy friend)

We are getting back to normal now

Fewer trips and dinners for me,

They have finally learned my name again,

And my days are much more free (NOT)

I now have time for homework,

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For cuddle time with my boy and girls

And I know of all the beds in bedville

Mine is the sweetest in the world.

Slide 37

And to all of us in education

Stand strong for who we are

For we are super-heroes

And we are shining stars

Keep Lighting up the darkness

And giving every day

For NH's Children need us

That's all I have to say